

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

Ontario's employment & training network

Entertainment Industry Power Technician Apprenticeship Program



An **entertainment industry power technician** evaluates job requirements; plans, builds, installs, maintains, and disassembles power distribution systems (main and sub-distribution); designs and installs temporary distribution systems; installs, controls, and disassembles lighting; and manages portable power supplies, including maintenance of batteries. Work is performed on installations up to, but not including, hardwire connection to the power system of permanent buildings. These individuals work for film, television, live performance and special event productions, trade shows, and carnivals.

Entertainment industry power technician is a **non-restricted certified** trade regulated by the Apprenticeship and Certification Act. On successfully completing the apprenticeship program, a person working in this trade is entitled to a Certificate of Apprenticeship and can challenge the trade examination to obtain a Certificate of Qualification.

Entrance requirements

Grade 12 or equivalent

Program duration

About two and a half years or as determined by industry guidelines

Work description

An entertainment industry power technician is a person who:

- operates hand and power tools, and metering and testing devices
- uses communication skills specific to the entertainment industry
- interprets technical drawings and sketches to plan jobs
- performs calculations using metric and imperial systems
- calculates electrical load requirements
- uses measuring and checking devices
- evaluates site conditions and determines material, equipment, and crew requirements
- plans rig layout
- uses rigging, hoisting, and lifting equipment
- plans and hangs temporary power systems
- installs and removes set practicals and wiring
- establishes and proves a ground for generator sets or a temporary power supply
- establishes, verifies, and disconnects power to main and sub-distribution systems
- balances electrical loads connected to power systems
- installs, controls, and disassembles lighting setups
- installs and maintains extra-low-voltage AC and low-voltage DC equipment and components
- installs and maintains Class 1 and Class 2 wiring systems
- disassembles portable power electrical systems
- maintains batteries

- works in compliance with the Canadian Electrical Code, the Ontario Electrical Safety Code, the Ontario Building Code, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS), and related safety legislation and regulations
- works in accordance with standards set by the Illumination Engineering Society and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
- follows requirements set by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority and those set out in manufacturers' manuals, technical bulletins, parts bulletins, service or preventative maintenance manuals, and fact sheets

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

At the time of registration, an apprentice receives an **Apprenticeship Training Standard**, which outlines the skills training objectives to be met or competencies to be acquired on the job. These competencies equip an apprentice to work in the trade as a certified skilled worker or "journey person". The employer or sponsor or trainer of an apprentice signs the relevant section of the training standard to indicate the progress of the apprentice in meeting individual training objectives. This signature demonstrates that an apprentice has learned the skills established by industry that are essential for being a skilled worker.

IN-SCHOOL TRAINING

Entertainment industry power technician apprentices require four levels of theoretical training. Depending on availability at the chosen delivery agency, this training may be completed in one of the following ways:

- block release (full-time, 4 weeks for each level)
- day release (1 day per week)
- part-time (generally night-school programs)

At the time of registration, the training consultant discusses the schooling options with the apprentice to determine the most suitable arrangements for the apprentice and the sponsor/employer.

In-school training for entertainment industry power technician apprentices includes instruction in:

- applied safety procedures
- codes and standards
- communication skills
- rigging
- electrical theory
- electronics
- lighting technology
- control systems
- installation methods

APPRENTICESHIP FACT SHEET

Apprenticeship – What is it and how does it work?

Apprenticeship is a hands-on training program for people who want to work in skilled trades or occupations. About 90% of apprenticeship involves on-the-job training by sponsors of training or employers. The remainder involves related theoretical training, usually obtained at a college of applied arts and technology or another approved training delivery agency.

Training agreements between apprentices and their training sponsor or employer are prepared by training consultants at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In accordance with legislation, each training agreement is an individualized contract or training plan between a person who wants to learn a skilled trade and a training sponsor or an employer.

Apprentices and training sponsors or employers benefit from apprenticeship training. Apprentices learn to become qualified tradespeople or “journeypersons”, while training sponsors or employers gain highly skilled employees with up-to-date knowledge and work techniques. Jobs in skilled trades provide challenging work and good careers.

How long does an apprenticeship last?

Most apprenticeships take two to five years to complete, depending on the trade. At the time of registration, prior education and related work experience are considered, where appropriate, to potentially reduce the length of the program. Flexible in-school training options are generally available to meet the specific needs of apprentices and their training sponsor or employer.

How does a person register for an apprenticeship?

When a person who wants to be an apprentice has found a training sponsor or employer willing to engage in apprenticeship training, either the person or the training sponsor or employer should contact the local apprenticeship office. A training consultant will arrange a meeting at the workplace to assess the ability of the training sponsor or employer to train and assess the person, prepare the training agreement or contract, and initiate the training.

Can a student start an apprenticeship while attending high school?

Yes. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program offers students who have completed Grade 10 an opportunity to become registered apprentices while finishing high school. Eligible students should contact their guidance counsellor, technical director, or local apprenticeship office for more information.

What is “Interprovincial” designation?

The Interprovincial Standards Program or Red Seal Program was established to provide greater labour mobility for skilled workers who wish to move from one part of Canada to another. It encourages the standardization of provincial/territorial training and certification programs. A Red Seal certificate is recognized by provinces participating in the program. Many Ontario trades are part of the Red Seal Program. In these trades, people who are eligible to challenge the trade examinations may, if successful, receive a Certificate of Qualification with a distinctive red seal that allows them to work in other provinces and territories.

APPRENTICESHIP OFFICES

Central District

Toronto (416) 326-5800
Pickering (905) 837-7721
Mississauga (905) 279-7333
Barrie (705) 737-1431

Western District

Hamilton (905) 521-7764
Brantford (519) 756-5197
St. Catharines (905) 704-2991
Owen Sound (519) 376-5790
London (519) 675-7788
Sarnia (519) 542-7705

Waterloo (519) 571-6009
Windsor (519) 973-1441
Chatham (519) 354-2766

Eastern District

Ottawa (613) 731-7100
Brockville (613) 342-5481
Cornwall (613) 938-9702
Kingston (613) 545-4338
Pembroke (613) 735-3911
Peterborough (705) 745-1918
Belleville (613) 968-5558

Northern District

Sault Ste. Marie (705) 945-6815
North Bay (705) 495-8515
Sudbury (705) 564-3030
Timmins (705) 235-1950
Thunder Bay (807) 345-8888
Kenora (807) 468-2879

Employment Ontario Website Address:

www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

Employment

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